Judge Thomas L. Clem is a Cum Laude Graduate of Ball State University, 1977, and he achieved his Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree from Indiana University (Indianapolis) in 1981. Prior to being elected Judge, he worked in private practice and also served as a Deputy Prosecutor in Madison County from 1985-1990. Judge Clem took the bench for his first term in January 1991 (elected November 1990), and was re-elected in to the bench in subsequent elections in 1996, 2002, 2008, and 2014.

Judge Clem is a Graduate of the Indiana Judicial College (2000), and has formerly served as a member of the Judicial Conference of Indiana and the Criminal Law Benchbook. He is currently serving as a member of the Criminal Law Policy Committee, at the appointment of the Indiana Supreme Court.

Judge Clem is also the presiding Judge of the Madison County Veteran's Court, a Problem Solving Treatment Court that addresses the needs of veterans who may commit crimes because of underlying issues such as drug addiction, mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, or traumatic brain injury. This court regularly supervises and provides support for approximately 20 veterans at a time.